

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman
Tsunetaro Miyakoda

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

Editors:
Kaname Tsukahara
Ronald G Korver.

CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 24-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 191

July 15, 1961

In These Pages

Torrential Rains Cause Widespread Damage	1
L-Type Evangelism Team Arrives	2
Shortage of Bibles and Hymnals in Indonesia	3
Church World Service Constructs Medical Bus	3
Senior Pastors Invited to "Last Will Meeting"	3

TORRENTIAL RAINS CAUSE WIDESPREAD DAMAGE

To meet the need for immediate aid to the disaster areas struck by the recent typhoon no. 6 which brought great destruction to a wide area in Japan, the Social Work Committee of the UCC called a meeting of its Special Committee for Emergency Disaster Relief. As a result of discussions based on reports from the various damaged districts, it was decided to allocate 1,300,000 yen to initiate a relief fund to be used in bringing aid to the disaster areas.

The total damage in all areas affected by the heavy rains was much worse than at first estimated. Among all this havoc created by flooding rivers and by landslides, damage to church buildings was comparatively light. However, scores of Christian families experienced flood waters surging into their homes with the resulting filth remaining after the waters had receded. Several homes were destroyed by landslides. By the mercy of God, no Christians were reported killed among the hundreds killed and injured.

The most seriously damaged church building was the new Nanao church in central Honshu which was flooded seven times during the week of torrential rains. Huge timbers and great

amounts of earth and sand were washed into the almost completed new edifice causing great damage.

Between 15 to 20 milk stations have been set up in the devastated areas to distribute free milk. Child-care centers have also been provided for children whose parents are busy in repair and clean-up work. The Christian Medical Association has been asked to provide doctors and nurses for planned medical stations. Church World Service, besides making available milk for the milk stations and medical supplies for the medical stations, has sent bread, soap, vitamins, wheat flour, and clothing to the victims.

A work-camp is to be set up in Iida, Nagano Prefecture, the prefecture in which water damage was the greatest. Appeals have been sent out to Christian young people for 30 volunteers a day over a period of six weeks, each volunteer to contribute five days of labor in restoration activities. A camp for the Kobe area is also being planned.

L-TYPE EVANGELISM TEAM ARRIVES

Continuing the summer evangelism program initiated by Rev. Lawrence L. Lacour in 1950, fifteen American and Canadian pastors, plus six wives, arrived at Haneda airport on July 7, to work with Japanese pastors at 14 churches related to the UCC which will serve as the centers for their evangelistic activities. Whereas the Lacour program was mainly pioneer evangelism effort and sought to establish new churches with contributions from abroad, the new L-Type Evangelism program, as the revised program is called, will emphasize the strengthening of already established churches by working in areas where churches have been already built. The L-Type Evangelism team will also be working under the direction of the Evangelism Committee of the UCC.

The fifteen pastors and the wives were met by about 20 members of the L-Type Evangelism Committee, leaders of the UCC Evangelism Committee and others. After a short rest at the Hirano Inn, where the group is temporarily quartered, a welcome dinner was given by the Moderator of the UCC at the International House of Japan.

On the following day, orientation commenced with an address on "Elements in the Japanese Mentality and Social Structure Which Make Christian Penetration Difficult," by Dr. Isamu Omura, Vice Moderator of UCC and former chairman of Lacour Evangelism. This was followed by a tour to the Rissho Kosei Kai headquarters (a Nichiren related sect). In the afternoon a reception by leaders of the UCC was held at the Christian Center to which approximately 60 Christian leaders were invited.

On Sunday, the pastors were assigned to preaching at churches in and about Tokyo.

Orientation continued on the 10th and the 11th at Hirano Inn where the team was briefed on the general religious situation in Japan, the present condition of Christianity in Japan, the social

structure, habits and customs, and were instructed concerning the organization of the UCC and its confession.

On the afternoon of the 11th, the pastors were introduced to their respective Japanese pastor partners with whom they will work, to their interpreters and to the members of the L-Type Evangelism Committee.

SHORTAGE OF BIBLES AND HYMNALS IN INDONESIA

Plans are being rushed to send 10,000 New Testaments to Indonesia from Japan.

As is the custom in Japan, all Indonesian Christians must bring their own Bibles and hymnals when attending worship services. However, there are not enough Bibles and hymnals for the Christians of Indoneisa. Before the war, the Bible Society of the Netherlands supplied them, but now because of the unsettled political situation, even though Bibles are ordred it is virtually impossible to import them.

Therefore, at the request of the Indonesia Bible Society, the Bible Society of Japan is rushing plans to ship 10,000 New Testaments, printed in the Malayan language, before Christmas of this year. To meet the cost of 1,500,000 yen, offering from various denominations in Japan will be requested besides aid from the Bible Societies of the U.S.A. and England.

Requests for the O.T. have also come from the Indoneisan Church and the World Bible League has asked Japan to donate 50,000 Bibles to the Indonesian Christians. The Church of Indonesia has also sent in a plea to the Overseas Evangelism Committee of the UCC for hymnals. Even the Indonesian government has emphasized the great need for Bibles by requesting that Bibles be sent as a part of the World War II reparations which Japan has yet to pay Indonesia.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CONSTRUCTS MEDICAL BUS

Church World Service will have soon completed a "Medical Bus" which will travel about the Tchoku area in northern Honshu this summer, giving simple medical treatment to people living in doctorless villages. The bus will also include a kitchen to be used in instructing the villagers' wives in sanitary and economical housekeeping. Film equipment will also be on the well outfitted bus to present wholesome entertainment. The bus will leave Tokyo on July 24 and make about twenty stops in its month of travel.

The Christian Medical Association is cooperating in this worthwhile project by providing doctors and nurses and the local churches are working to make the venture successful.

SENIOR PASTORS INVITED TO "LAST WILL MEETING"

On August 7, present pastors of the UCC who were formerly members of the Kyu Nikki Kai (the united Reformed and Presbyterian

Church), are inviting all of their sempai (senior) pastors of 75 years of age and older to a "Last Will Meeting". The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for the younger pastors to hear of the difficulties experienced by these older pastors in evangelism and how these difficulties were overcome, also to hear details of discussions held at the time of the formation of the UCC, and to hear from the lips of these great men of God their opinions concerning the present condition of the UCC.

Fifteen pastors fit into this category of 75 years of age and above and all but two are still active in churches, or schools and seminaries. The oldest of this group is Rev. Tsutomu Miyoshi, emeritus pastor of the Tokyo Fujimicho church, who is 82 years old.

All of them state emphatically that it is too early for such a "Last Will Meeting".

